Abstract

A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition for use with a radiation source comprises one or more polymers capable of being dissolved in an alkaline aqueous solution and a development-enhancing compound. The composition is stable in its state before exposure and has an excellent handling property. The sensitivity of a radiation-sensitive coating based on the composition of this invention is increased without compromising the handling characteristics. Radiation-sensitive elements based on the composition of the invention have good development latitude. A positive-working lithographic printing precursor is based on the radiation-sensitive composition coated on a hydrophilic surface. The precursor is developable using an alkaline aqueous solution, and may be used with a radiation source in lithographic applications, such as conventional imaging systems, computer-to-plate systems or other direct imaging applications. The precursor is stable in its state before exposure and has an excellent handling property.